





FORMBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1958.

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Medical Officer of Health (Part Time). -

M.G. Garry, L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.M.  
Council Offices, Formby.  
Telephone - Formby 720.

Public Health Inspector. -

N. Benson, D.P.A. (L'pool).



FORMBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

22nd June, 1959.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Health and Highways Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to present the annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of Formby for 1958, together with vital statistics relative to that period.

Formby was constituted an urban district in 1905, having previously been a Parish in the West Lancashire Rural District. From that period steady residential development has taken place in the district and the population has doubled.

The standard of housing is very good; 81 new houses were erected during the year.

The water supplied to the district, although hard in character, is pure and adequate in quantity.

The general health has remained uniformly good.

Although the numbers of notifiable infectious disease shows an increase - 156 as compared with 102 last year - most of these were cases of food poisoning reported from a camp within the area.

Only two cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year. This is the lowest ever recorded for the district, and gives a case rate of 0.18 per 1,000 population. as compared with the rate of England and Wales of 0.59 per 1,000.

The number of live births was again high, 163 being registered.

Mortality from all causes showed an increase of 31. Heart disease and vascular lesions of the nervous system were the principal causes of death.

Control over smoke emission was made more effective with the introduction of the new Regulations. Investigation of atmospheric impurities is a long term policy, and in order to assess the amount of pollution a standard deposit gauge was obtained and is now in use.

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My thanks are again due to Members of the Health and Highways Committee for their interest and support, and to the staff for their assistance and co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

M.G. GARRY,

Medical Officer of Health.





Area of District -

L.W. Mark 7,308 acres.

H.W. Mark 5,613 acres.

Population (Registrar General's estimate, mid 1958) - 10,790.

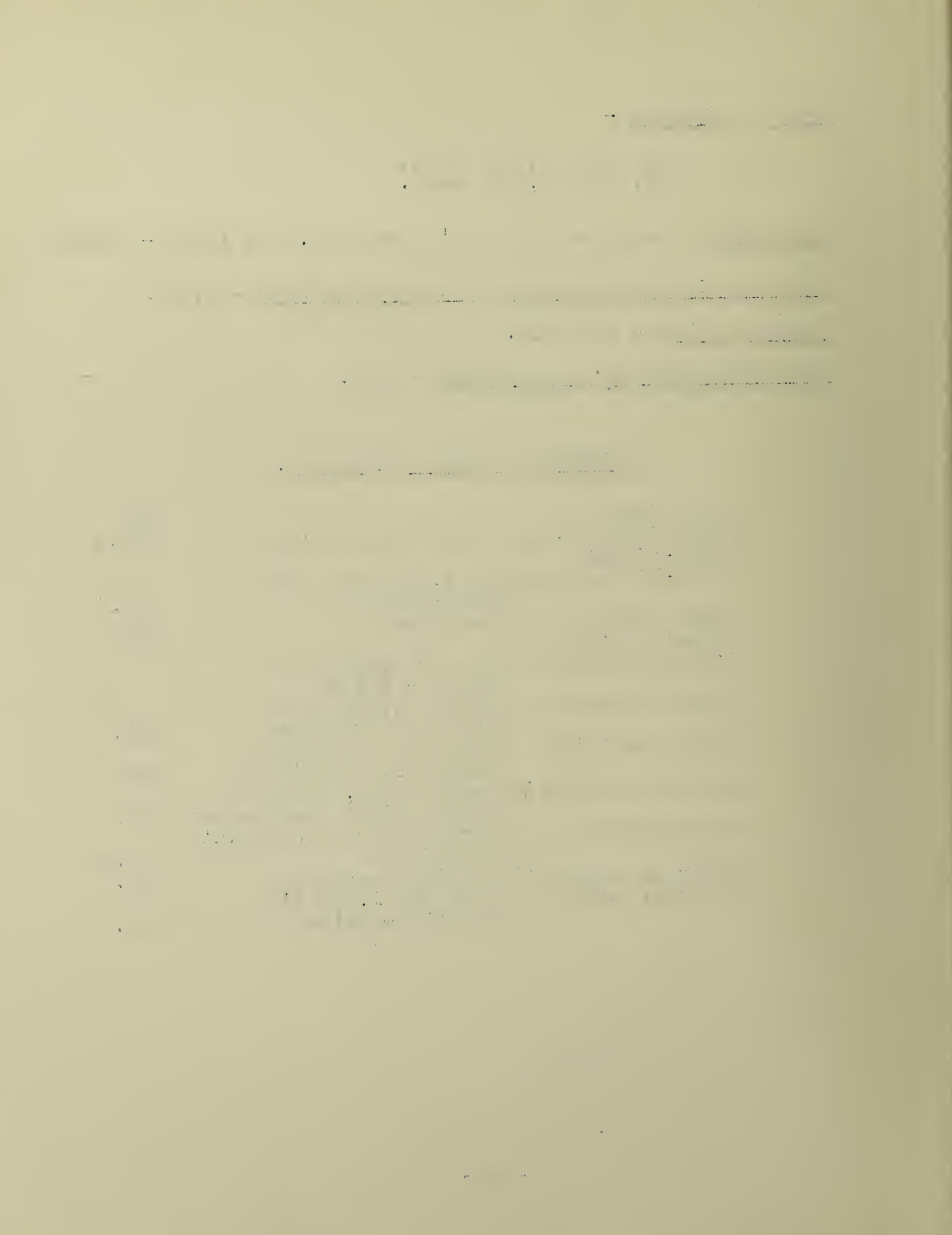
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1958 - 3,199.

Rateable Value - £149,076.

Sum represented by a penny rate - £591.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births	163
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	15.1
Still-births	3
Still-births rate per 1,000 live and still-births	18.1
Total live and still-births	166
Infant deaths	1
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births - total	6.1
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births - legitimate	Nil.
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births - illegitimate	200
Neo Natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births (first four weeks)	Nil.
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	3.07
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	Nil.
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births	Nil.



TABULATED LIST OF POPULATION, BIRTHS AND  
DEATHS SINCE 1945.

Year.	Popula- tion.	BIRTHS			Birth Rate (Crude)	DEATHS			Death Rate (Crude)
		Male	Female	Total		Male	Female	Total	
1945	8,421	61	62	123	14.5	73	57	130	15.4
1946	8,864	102	74	176	19.8	65	76	141	15.9
1947	8,900	66	68	134	15.0	52	51	103	11.5
1948	9,576	70	65	135	14.0	51	50	101	10.5
1949	9,714	51	62	113	11.6	65	65	130	13.4
1950	10,386	61	53	114	11.0	56	77	133	12.8
1951	10,429	60	70	130	12.3	69	81	150	14.2
1952	10,520	68	63	131	12.5	59	57	116	11.0
1953	10,100	81	64	145	14.4	50	58	108	10.7
1954	9,980	76	59	135	13.5	55	59	114	11.4
1955	11,170	75	67	142	12.7	49	65	114	10.2
1956	10,340	74	72	146	14.1	65	56	121	11.7
1957	10,470	91	72	163	15.6	49	55	104	9.9
1958	10,790	77	86	163	15.1	63	72	135	12.5



Causes of Death in the Formby Urban District  
during 1958.

	Male	Female	Total
1. Tuberculosis of the respiratory system.	2	-	2
2. Other forms of tuberculosis.	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease.	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria.	-	-	-
5. Whooping cough.	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections.	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis.	-	-	-
8. Measles.	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.	-	-	-
10. Cancer of the stomach.	-	1	1
11. Cancer of the lungs.	9	1	10
12. Cancer of the breast.	-	-	-
13. Cancer of the uterus.	-	2	2
14. Cancer of other sites.	5	5	10
15. Leukaemia.	1	2	3
16. Diabetes.	1	-	1
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system.	8	19	27
18. Coronary disease, angina.	12	10	22
19. Hypertension with heart disease.	1	2	3
20. Other heart disease.	5	12	17
21. Other circulatory disease.	3	2	5
22. Influenza.	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia.	1	4	5
24. Bronchitis.	4	3	7
25. Other respiratory diseases	2	-	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	1	-	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	1	-	1
28. Nephritis.	-	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.	-	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations.	-	2	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	2	2	4
33. Motor vehicle accidents.	2	-	2
34. All other accidents.	3	3	6
35. Suicide.	-	1	1
36. Homicide.	-	-	-
TOTAL	63	72	135

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

### Hospitals.

There are no hospitals within the Urban District. The Liverpool Regional Hospital Board is responsible for the hospital service within Health Division No.7, of which Formby forms part. Patients are moved to any of the hospitals in the area, i.e., Liverpool, Southport or Ormskirk.

### Infectious Disease.

Cases of infectious disease, when necessary, are admitted to the City Hospital, Fazackerley, or to New Hall Hospital, Scarisbrick.

### Tuberculosis.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the diagnosis and treatment of Tuberculosis is undertaken by the Regional Hospital Board. The Local Health Authorities have important duties in relation to prevention, supervision of contacts and after care.

### Ambulance Facilities.

The ambulance service, a 24 hour service, is provided by the Lancashire County Council. Stations within the division are at Formby, Crosby, Maghull and Ormskirk.

### Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The Child Welfare and Minor Ailments Clinic is provided by the County and held at "Roselands," Cross Green, every Tuesday. Immunisation is carried out every fourth Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

### Vaccination against Poliomyelitis.

The following details have been given by the Lancashire County Council of Poliomyelitis vaccinations in Formby during 1958 :-

	Age Groups.			Total.
	0-4 yrs.	5/15 yrs.	15 and over.	
Number vaccinated	293	977	25	1,295

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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### Midwifery Service.

There are two midwives living in the district, employed by the Lancashire County Council to ensure that every mother may have the advice and attention of a skilled midwife when she is confined at home.

### Home Nursing Service.

The services of a district nurse are available to attend to the sick in their own homes. This service is arranged by a note from the family doctor or hospital. There are two district nurses resident in the area.

### Home Help Service.

The Home Help service is provided for helping with household duties in cases of confinement, sickness, infirmity or other difficulties.

### Nursing Equipment.

Persons being nursed at home and who are in need of nursing equipment may obtain this on loan, by application to the Divisional Health Office, the district nurse or medical practitioner attending the case.

### Care of the Aged.

The County Council provides accommodation, either in their own Institutions or in suitable voluntary homes.

### Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological specimens and samples of food or water for examination are sent to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Liverpool.

### Disinfection.

When required, disinfection of bedding, clothing and books is carried out in a Sparkhall Disinfector of 80 cubic feet capacity at the Council Depot. The method of disinfection used in this apparatus is the vapourisation of a fluid claimed by the makers to have a far greater Rideal-Walker co-efficiency value than formalin. The chamber is later cleared of the gas by an extractor fan.

Twenty-seven articles were treated after infectious disease and twelve rooms were disinfected.



## Prevalence and control of infectious Disease.

During the year 156 cases of infectious disease were notified; these are shown by the tables below in age groups.

Notifiable Diseases.	Total Cases.	Age Periods - Years.									Deaths
		Under 1	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65 & over	
Scarlet Fever.	7			3	4						
Measles.	37		18	9	7	2	1				
Food Poisoning.	102						102				
Acute Pneumonia.	8			1			3		4		
Tuberculosis Respiratory.	2						1		1		
	156	-	18	13	11	2	107	-	5	-	Nil

## Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

Water Supply - Water is supplied to the district by the Southport and District Water Board, and is obtained from deep wells sunk in the new red sandstone formation. The mains supplying Formby vary in size from 3" to 14" internal diameter. The water supplied, although hard in character, is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity. Ten samples of water were taken in the district and submitted for bacteriological examination. All were reported as "Highly Satisfactory."

## Other Water Supplies.

There are seventeen houses, a Cafe and four holiday chalets still without a water supply from the public mains. These are in the outlying parts of the district. Twenty samples of water were taken from the wells and submitted for bacteriological examination. Four of these were not satisfactory.



ANALYST'S REPORT ON A SAMPLE OF WATER  
TAKEN IN THE DISTRICT.

Chemical Results in Parts per Million.

Appearance - Bright with very few particles.

Turbidity - Less than 3.

Colour - Nil.

Odour - Nil.

pH - 7.2

Free Carbon Dioxide - 32.

Electric Conductivity - 575.

Total Solids, dried at 180° C - 405.

Chlorine as Chlorides - 28.

Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate - 230.

Hardness: Total - 300. Carbonate - 230. Non-Carbonate - 70.

Nitrate Nitrogen - 0.0 Nitrite Nitrogen - Absent.

Ammoniacal Nitrogen - 0.000 Oxygen absorbed - 0.35

Albuminoid Nitrogen - 0.000 Residual Chlorine - Absent.

Metals - Iron; less than 0.03. Manganese; less than 0.03.  
Other metals absent.

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

	<u>1 day at 37° C.</u>	<u>2 days at 37° C.</u>	<u>3 days at 20° C.</u>
Number of Colonies			
developing on Agar	1 per ml.	3 per ml.	0 per ml.
	<u>Present in</u>	<u>Absent from</u>	<u>Probable No.</u>
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction	-- ml.	100 ml.	-
Bact. coli. (Type 1)	-- ml.	100 ml.	-
Cl. welchii Reaction	-- ml.	100 ml.	-

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.





The interpretation of the results of bacteriological examination in terms of the hygienic quality of water demands careful consideration of all relevant factors. The bacteriological condition has to be considered in relation to the season and source of supply. Whilst a piped supply is always desirable the cost is often considerable. An estimate to supply four old cottages with mains water was £1,350.

#### Swimming Baths.

There are no public baths in the district but there is one open air swimming bath attached to a large private school. This is used by a considerable number of boys during the season. Swimming bath water is exposed to a considerable amount of contamination from the bathers and often inadvertently becomes drinking water. It should, therefore, as nearly as possible reach the standard of drinking water. This was achieved by the method of continuous circulation, filtration and chlorination, together with periodic complete water change. Samples taken and submitted for bacteriological examination were all found to be satisfactory.

#### Drainage and Sewage Disposal.

Main drainage is provided for 85% of the houses in the district. The sewers discharge by gravitation into settling tanks with an outfall into the River estuary.

Surface water from house property, etc., is drained onto the gardens or into sumps. Street gullies connect to surface water drains discharging into the watercourses.

Plans for the reconstruction of the Sewage Disposal Works to deal with the drainage from increased building, and to provide for future extension of the sewers, have been prepared. The scheme for complete treatment has now been submitted to the Ministry for approval and loan sanction.

#### Cesspools and Septic Tanks.

The Council does not undertake the emptying of cesspools.

#### Sanitary Accommodation.

Number of houses with pail closets	189
Number of houses with W.C.'s draining to cesspools or septic tanks	383
Number of houses with W.C.'s on main drainage	2,627





### Conversions.

Number of premises where pail closets have been converted to water closets	9
Number of cesspools abolished and houses connected to main drainage	23

### Refuse Removal and Disposal.

The removal of house refuse is carried out under the direction of the Surveyor. Two Shelvoke and Drewry Refuse vehicles are employed.

Dustbins and pail closets are emptied weekly.

The disposal of refuse is by tipping on low lying land at North Moss Lane.

### Shops Act, 1950.

The routine inspection of shops under the above Act was continued during the year, 89 visits being made. There are 140 shops on the register. Defects discovered during inspection were remedied by informal notice.

### Factories Act, 1937.

Routine visits were made to the 46 premises on the register, which includes building sites. 59 inspections were made and it was only necessary to serve four notices for contraventions.

### Holiday Caravan Sites - Public Health Act, 1936. Section 269.

There are three main sites licensed for a total number of 125 caravans for the period 1st April to 30th September.

The largest site at Formby Point planned for 100 caravans is now provided with a special sanitary block consisting of toilets, washing facilities, etc., which drain to a small sewage disposal plant. This site is pleasantly situated amidst pine woods. Improved facilities are also being provided at the other sites.

### Housing.

Many houses have been put into a better state of repair as a direct result of the Rent Act.

The general standard of housing in the district is good. Owners of premises without adequate sanitary



arrangements are continuing to take advantage of the grants which are available for improvements.

It is pleasing to record that property owners have been particularly co-operative in carrying out essential repairs as quickly as possible.

A small number of old thatched cottages, two or three hundred years old, are still occupied. Arrangements have been made in most cases with the owners that when the premises are vacated by the present tenants the premises will be demolished.

Four unfit houses were demolished during the year.

In this period 81 houses were erected by private builders.

#### Rent Act, 1957.

Although nineteen applications for Certificates of Disrepair were made only three were issued. In the other cases undertakings were given by the owners that the necessary repairs would be carried out.

#### Housing Act, 1949. - Improvement Grant.

Nine applications for the 50% grant made available under the above Act were received and approved. The necessary works were later carried out satisfactorily.

#### Clean Air Act, 1956.

This Act has been the beginning of a new approach to the problem of atmospheric pollution and the first time that domestic smoke has been practically considered.

The Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations, 1958, which came into operation on 1st June, imposes limits on the emission of black smoke and dark smoke, both of which are defined in the Act.

There are only three small industrial chimneys in the area.

Forty-two observations were made on smoke emission, without a contravention of the Regulations being noted. During the resurfacing of parts of the County roads, however, considerable nuisance was caused in the operation of the County heating and planing machine, when dense volumes of



smoke and fumes were emitted. It is hoped that satisfactory solution will be found speedily in the operation of these machines.

In order to assess the general degree of atmospheric pollution a standard deposit gauge was purchased and set up in September. The results obtained from this period are tabulated :-

Monthly Deposit	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Water (inches rainfall)	3.86	3.03	1.76	3.35
pH Value	4.6	6.0	3.7	4.2
Total water - insoluble matter, Tons per sq. mile.	9.27	5.99	1.85	3.15
Total water - soluble matter.	10.63	8.38	4.30	8.28
Total Solids - Tons per sq. mile.	19.90	14.37	6.15	11.43

#### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

##### Milk Supply.

All milk sold within the district is either pasteurised, sterilised or tuberculin tested, and can therefore be regarded as "safe."

There are nine dairy farms producing milk, but some of this goes out of the district to the large retailers for heat treatment. Dairy farms are registered by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, who are also responsible for the inspection of the premises and cattle.

Two other dairies are registered by the local authority for the sale of milk.

##### The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949/54.

The following licences were issued for the sale of Designated Milks :-





Licences.

	<u>Dealers.</u>	<u>Supplementary.</u>
Tuberculin Tested	3	3
Pasteurised	9	1
Sterilised	5	1

Milk Sampling.

The following details are given of milk samples submitted for bacteriological examination :-

Number of Samples.	Grade of Milk.	Test.	No. Satis- factory.	No. Unsatis- factory.
11	Untreated	T. B.	11	-
11	Untreated	Methylene Blue.	11	-
17	Pasteurised	-do-	15	2
17	Pasteurised	Phospha- tase test.	17	-
1	Sterilised	Turbidity Test.	1	-

Ice Cream.

The sale of this commodity continues on an increasing scale. Twenty-eight premises are registered for the sale of ice cream. This is mostly wrapped or prepacked and produced by manufacturers outside the district. The only manufacturer of ice cream in the district uses a "complete cold mix" which requires no addition except water.

Twenty-five samples of ice cream were taken and submitted for examination - the following results were reported :-

No. of Samples.	Methylene Blue Test. Period of Reduction.	Grade.
13	Not before 4 hours.	1
10	3 to 4 hours.	2
1	1 hour.	3
1	-	4

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5. The fifth part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the	6. The sixth part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the	7. The seventh part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the	8. The eighth part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the

9. The ninth part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the	10. The tenth part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the	11. The eleventh part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the	12. The twelfth part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the
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The standard adopted is that recommended by the Ministry of Health, i.e. "ice cream which consistently fails to reach grades one and two indicates defects of manufacture or handling."

### Food Hygiene.

Food traders have continued to co-operate in the implementation of the Regulations.

There is an increasing awareness, both by the food distributor and the consumer, on the importance of cleanliness in food display, storage and handling. A larger variety of foodstuffs are now being prepacked or wrapped.

In the confectionery trade a greater use should be made of serving tongs and protective display units.

Contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations were remedied without recourse to legal proceedings.

### Food Poisoning.

Two outbreaks of food poisoning occurred at a summer camp. A total of 102 cases were notified. The main clinical features were vomiting, abdominal colic and diarrhoea.

It was thought to have originated from a carrier employed in the cookhouse.

The causal organism identified in most cases was *Salmonella-typhi-murium*.

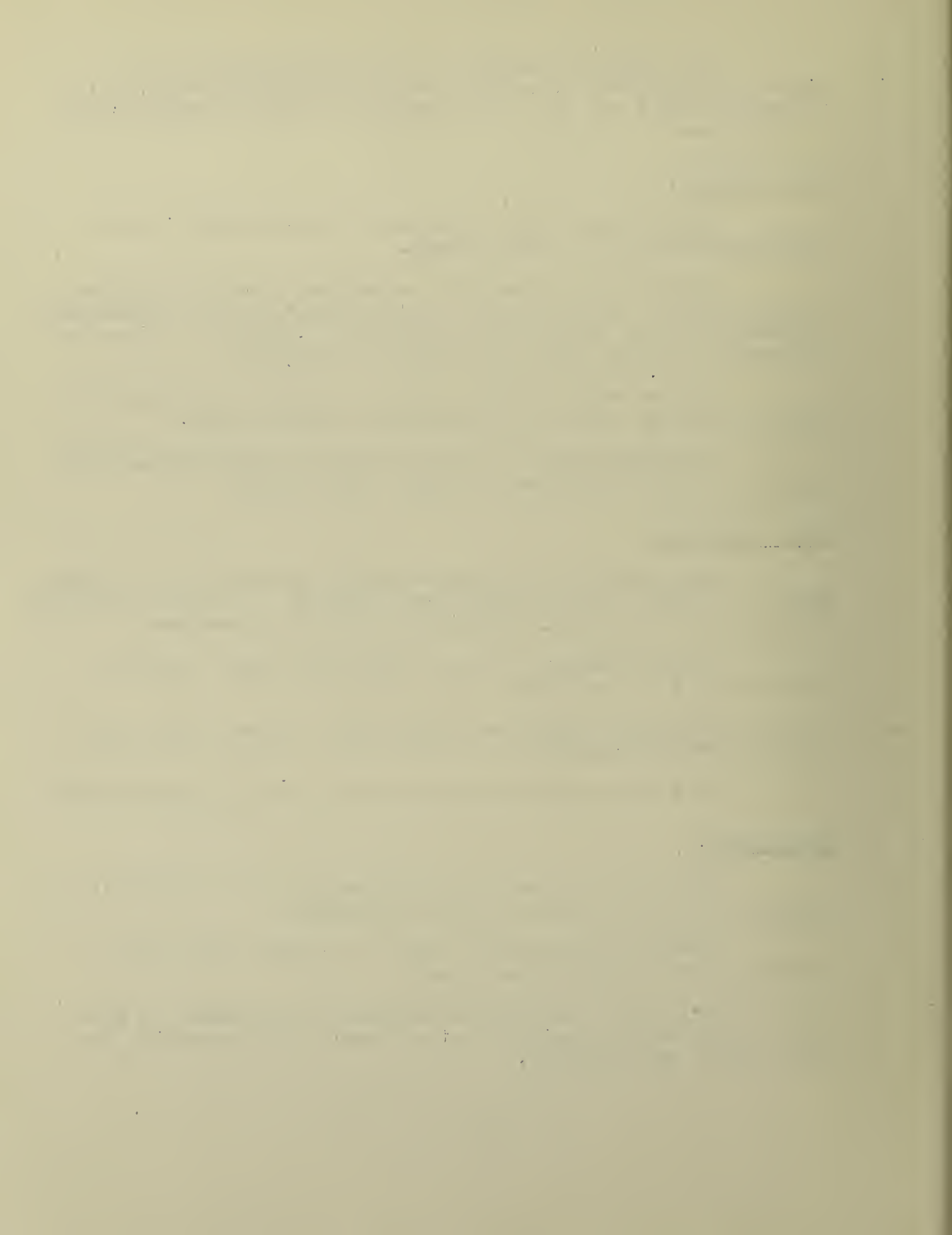
No cases were reported from the civilian population.

### Bakehouses.

There are now only six bakehouses in the district and routine visits were made to these premises.

Notices to limewash, paint or cleanse walls and ceilings were served in two cases.

As so much depends on personal cleanliness in this work attention was again directed towards the necessity for clean hands and clothing.



### Adulteration of Food.

A total of fifty samples of food were obtained and submitted for analysis by the Lancashire County Council. Details of these are given below :-

<u>Food.</u>	<u>No. of Samples.</u>
Flour.	5
Canned fish.	5
Ground cloves.	1
Ground nutmeg.	1
Ground spice.	1
Ground cinnamon.	1
Milk.	32
Milk (Channel Islands).	4

The samples were sent for analysis to the County Analyst and with the exception of the two samples of milk, detailed below, were reported by him to be genuine.

<u>Type.</u>	<u>Result of Analysis.</u>	<u>Action Taken.</u>
Milk.	Freezing point indicated the presence of 0.6% of extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained.
Milk.	Fat 2.75% deficient 8.3%	Vendor notified.

### Rodent Control.

A rodent operative is employed for the destruction of rats and mice, and most of his time is spent on this work. 1,084 Visits were made. Private dwellings are treated free, and the actual cost of treatment is charged for infestations found on business premises.

### SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Complaints received and investigated	271
Visits to dwellings under Public Health Acts	803
Visits to dwellings under Housing Acts	83
Revisits to premises	679
Visits to factories and workplaces	59
Visits to food premises	90
Visits to farms, piggeries, etc.	14



Visits re drain tests	12
Visits re wells and water supply	33
Visits to Schools	11
Visits to cinemas	2
Visits to caravan sites	73
Visits to shops	89
Visits re Rent Act	79
Visits re infectious disease	115
Visits to ditches and watercourses	16
Visits and observations re Clean Air Act, 1956	42
Visits re milk supplies	29
Visits re ice cream	54
Miscellaneous visits and interviews	120
Number of preliminary notices served	81
Number of preliminary notices complied with	74
Number of Statutory Notices served	8
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	7





